

Hate crime hearing

- See page 3



One Nation gathers to protest in D.C.

- See Page 8

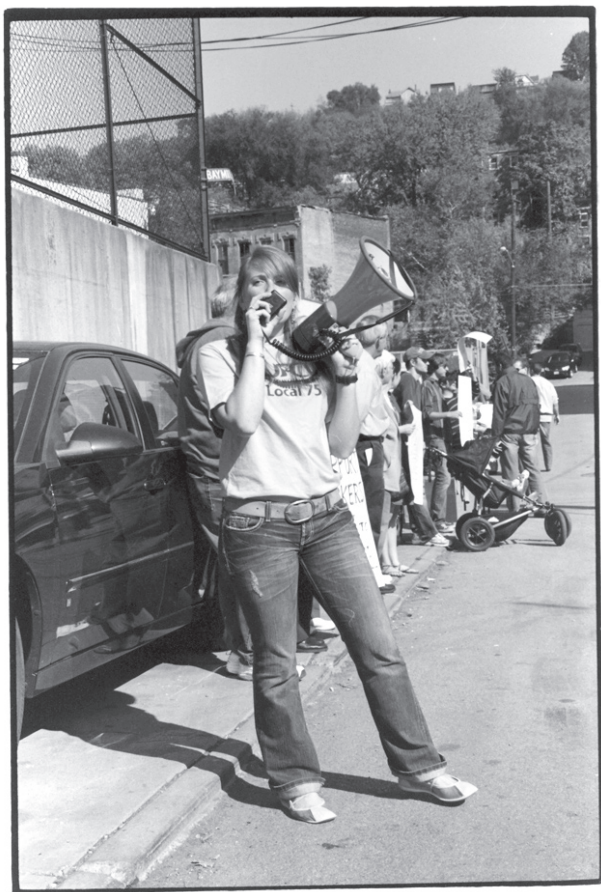


Oct. 15-31, 2010 • Issue 186 • One Dollar

STREETVIBES

ADVOCATING JUSTICE • BUILDING COMMUNITY

Union Gets Slaughtered in Vote



Ellen Dienger, organizer with UFCW Local 75, led a Sept. 29 rally of about 40 persons in support of workers at Tri-State Beef. Jon Hughes/Photopresse.

Intimidation at meat plant or lack of interest?

By Carly Tamborski
Contributing Writer

Employees of Tri-State Beef, one of the last major slaughterhouses in Cincinnati, voted Oct. 1 to reject union membership. The vote was 38-to-9 against being represented by United Food and Commercial Workers Local 75. There was one void ballot in the election supervised by the National Labor Relations Board.

Workers voted from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on whether they wanted Local 75 as their agent for collective bargaining with Tri-State Beef.

"We feel like workers just aren't ready at this time," said Ellen Dienger, an organizer with Local 75. "They've been through a lot. There's a lot of intimidation that's been going on – people were afraid. When your employer is threatening to shut your plant down if you vote against the union

and they have the police walking through there, that creates fear. They told the workers things like, 'Well, you can vote for the union, but if you do, you're not going to have a job anymore. A lot of them believed that and just weren't ready. Owners say that in lots of plants, but the workers didn't see that it was kind of a tactic of their employer to keep them from joining the union.'

Robert Runtz Sr., owner of the company, denied that any threats were made. He said the company treats employees well. It was the union, not the company, that was heavy-handed during the campaign, according to Runtz Sr.

The microwave dispute

Two days before the election, on Sept. 29, Runtz Sr. and his son, Bobby, an employee, stood outside the slaughterhouse as Local 75 held an outdoor rally in support of the workers.

"I don't think my people even want this," Runtz Sr. said. "It's the union that keeps pushing them and harassing them – going over to their houses at 7, 10, 11 o'clock

at night. They come here and bribe them with T-shirts, pop, potato chips, pretzels. On Monday morning, that woman (Dienger) was here at 4:30 a.m. giving out T-shirts."

But the union simply tried to communicate with employees as best it could, Dienger said.

"We did our best to explain how unions worked to everyone we possibly could," she said. "We weren't always able to contact all the workers because we didn't know how to get a hold of them, but we sent information and tried to talk to as many people as we could."

Local 75 filed petitions in August asking the National Labor Relations Board to conduct an election. Microwave ovens for heating workers' lunches seem to have been a flashpoint at the plant.

The first set of microwaves was brought in by the workers, according to Dienger. Runtz Sr. said he provided them, which wasn't something he had to do, but he considered them a small luxury for his employees.

See Union, P. 13

Environmentalism through Art and Design

ZeroLandfill turns scraps into new art

By Corey Gibson
Contributing Writer

The United States generated nearly 246 million tons of trash in 2005, according to the latest estimate by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The highest point in Hamilton County is "Mount Rumpke," a mountain of trash at a Colerain Township landfill standing at an astounding height of 1,045 feet above sea level.

A 2006 survey of municipal solid waste management in the United States revealed that Ohio contributed over 15 million tons of trash to the ever-growing piles of waste in the United States. The numbers become even more

staggering when one realizes that, on average, each person in Ohio generates over one ton of garbage every year, recycling only 26 percent and throwing 74 percent into the dump.

Although Ohio beats out many other states when it comes to the number of curbside recycling programs – some states have none – Ohio still ranks high among other states when comparing average amount of trash thrown away each year, according to the study.

ZeroLandfill, a program dedicated to keeping the amount of trash thrown into landfills at a bare minimum, is working to change those statistics. ZeroLandfill "fills the gaps for educators' material needs and creates behavior change for architects and interior designers, as what was formally considered waste is redirected into the community," according to its website.

Jeff Krejci, co-founder of

the company, began picking up expired carpet specification books during sales calls in 2004. He took the books, removed the carpet samples and recycled them. The carpet, the cardboard books and the pages themselves were sent to different recycling stations to be broken down and reused.

"The very early origins of it started because I work for a company called Interface-FLOR," says Susan Margraf, co-chair of ZeroLandfill Cincinnati. "Jeff Krejci, who is the representative for Cleveland, started with Mike Dungan. They starting going around and noticing in design firms as they were in there, calling on these firms, piles and piles of stuff loaded up and ready to go in the trashcan. They took it upon themselves

personally to take that stuff. Jeff used to take it to his garage, and him and his kids would separate the stuff and find places to take it to."

Realizing he needed a simpler way to recycle all the material he was picking up, Krejci, Dungan and other fellow Zero-

Landfill employees began to invite artists and arts educators to pick up the material to use for their own projects or

See Landfill, P. 7



Photo by Tyler Macko. Illustration by Joseph Szidowski

By The Numbers

30

The maximum percentage of a person's income spent on housing defined as "affordable" (see page 7).

60

The number of years the family of Ahmad Al'Azzah has lived in a Palestinian refugee camp (see page 4).

52x82

The size, in inches, of *Judging Me* by Albert Andrew Fausz Jr. (see page 16).

43

The number of homeless people killed in hate crimes in the United States in 2009 (see page 3).

1-10

The rating system for judging candidates in "range voting" (see page 11).

200,000

The number of vendors distributing street papers around the world (see page 9).

25

The length, in feet, of a rope Republicans would throw a person drowning 50 feet from shore (see page 6).

210

The number of cows slaughtered at Tri-State Beef every day (see page 1).

2

The date in October when tens of thousands rallied in Washington, D.C. (see page 8).

400,000

The amount of decorating scraps, in pounds, repurposed by ZeroLandfill (see page 1).

Streetwise

By Gregory Flannery
Editor

Of Forked Tongues and Bedbugs

Electoral politics is essentially a popularity contest, and successful politicians know that they can often succeed by appealing to the least common denominator. It is no surprise, therefore, that Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory went to the trouble of coming out in favor of the local professional baseball team: "All year long, the Reds have given us great moments to celebrate, and they won the division in the most dramatic fashion. That was the perfect way to win the division and head to the playoffs. Cincinnati has Reds-fever and we're going to ride it through October."

Unfortunately, Mallory was wrong. October isn't yet finished, but the Reds are. The Philadelphia Phillies beat them in a three-game sweep.

U.S. Rep. Jeanne Schmidt (R-Miami Township) at least has the courage to take on a more troubling issue: "Ohio is at the epicenter of a growing national bedbug problem," she says. After due consideration, she has publicly stated her position. Schmidt opposes bedbugs.

More surprising is the endorsement that former state legislator Tom Brinkman Jr., candidate for Hamilton County Auditor, received from what he called "**Cincinnati's Progressive Weekly**." Brinkman is co-chair of Citizens Opposed to Additional Spending and Taxes (COAST), a group that few would consider progressive. Nor do many consider CityBeat progressive any longer. But that's the publication Brinkman was citing.

In the paper's Oct. 6 edition, the "Porkopolis" column written by Kevin Osborne carried this headline: "It's Not a Misprint: Vote for COAST Leader." After accusing incumbent County Auditor Dusty Rhodes of duplicity, Osborne makes this statement: "Although I certainly don't agree with Brinkman on some issues, he is exactly as he sells himself to voters." That, however, is the opposite of what Osborne said in the same column 18 months ago. The Jan. 21, 2009, edition of "Porkopolis" opened with this headline: "COAST Speaks with Forked Tongue."

Jeff Berding's Latest Monstrosity

Consistency isn't the highest good in public affairs, of course – and it's a good thing, too, or we'd have seen a whole lot of earnest voters and activists cited to court a few weeks ago. In order to encourage people to take advantage of Ohio's opportunity for early voting, Christopher Smitherman, president of the Cincinnati Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), camped with supporters outside the Hamilton County Board of Elections. The Sept. 27 stunt included tents on the sidewalk. Fortunately, none of the campers held signs saying, "Homeless – Please Help." The Cincinnati Police Department, ever vigilant about public safety, has been issuing citations to panhandlers who dare sit down on the sidewalk while asking for alms. The charge? **Obstructing the sidewalk**. That charge apparently applies only to people so desperate that they have to beg for sustenance.

This is not to say that the NAACP supports the city's cruelty toward poor people. A few days later the organization blasted a new restriction on panhandling. The proposal came, of course, from City Councilman Jeff Berding, who has distinguished himself in office by working hard to make the lives of poor people even more difficult. Last year he proposed taxing the nickels and dimes given to panhandlers. He dropped that idea but has now succeeded in getting council to forbid asking for money from people feeding parking meters. Smitherman blasted the new ordinance.

"Only a monster would propose legislation that criminalizes the poor in the middle of an economic great depression," he said. "Council does not know what it is like to be poor and engage in class warfare instead of teaching citizens how to say no."

Dangerous Drawings by Children

But then, saying no can get citizens in big trouble. Witness the Sept. 24 raids by the FBI, targeting anti-war protesters. Agents entered eight homes and offices of union and anti-war activists in Minneapolis and Chicago. They seized computers, books, documents, notebooks, cell phones, passports, **children's drawings**, photos of the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, videos and personal belongings. The FBI also raided offices of the Twin Cities Anti-war Committee, seizing computers; served federal grand-jury subpoenas to activists in Illinois, Minnesota and Michigan; and paid visits to others in Wisconsin, California and North Carolina. The majority of those targeted by the raids had participated in anti-war protests at the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn. Harassment of peace activists is not exactly new in the United States. President Richard Nixon was notorious for his heavy-handed suppression of opposition to the Vietnam War. But what makes this latest round of harassment all the more disheartening is that it was conducted by the FBI under a Democratic administration.

Streetvibes is an activist newspaper, advocating justice and building community. *Streetvibes* reports on economic issues, civil rights, the environment, the peace movement, spirituality and the struggle against homelessness and poverty. Distributed by people who are or once were homeless, in exchange for a \$1 donation, *Streetvibes* is published twice a month by the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless.

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The Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless

is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works to eradicate homelessness in Cincinnati through coordination of services, public education, grassroots advocacy and *Streetvibes*.

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Counting Hate is the First Step

Congress considers tracking attacks on homeless people

By Margo Pierce
Contributing Writer

“When I hear the horrific stories about murders, assault and rapes committed against our nation’s homeless, I ask myself, ‘Is this really America?’ When I hear the story of Norris Gaynor being beaten to death by baseball bats while sleeping on a park bench. I ask myself, ‘Where’s all this violence coming from?’ When I hear about John Mc Graham being doused with gasoline and set ablaze, I was shocked and horrified this could happen to a fellow human being and just wonder where we are heading.”

This was part of the opening statement by U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Maryland), a member of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs. The statement was part of a Sept. 29 hearing, “Crimes Against America’s Homeless: Is the Violence Growing?” A five-person panel presented testimony regarding the Hate Crimes Against the Homeless Statistics Act (S.B. 1765). Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) is a co-sponsor of the bill, which would require the FBI to add attacks on homeless people to the data it collects on hate crimes.

The Hate Crimes Statistic Acts of 1990 requires the Justice Department to track crimes motivated by race, religion, sexual orientation and ethnicity. Disability was added in 1994 and gender or gender identity were included later. The new bill does not add additional punishments for hate crimes against the homeless.

“I want the federal government to track how many crimes are being committed against homeless just because they are homeless,” Cardin said. “The best way to develop a strategy to deal with a problem is to make sure that you have accurate information in order to be able to act.”

Pointing to the limited statistics collected by the National Coalition for the Homeless over the past 11 years, Cardin characterized hate crimes against the homeless as “pervasive and growing.” The report indicates that 43 homeless people were killed as a result of hate crimes in 2009, making it the deadliest year to date. During that same year approximately 640,000 people were homeless on any given night, according to the latest report to Congress by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“Here’s what we do know: violence is occurring against this population. We know that the un-housed population is growing. One could make an educated guess that these two facts may lead to more victims,” Cardin said. “I don’t want to guess – I want to get the facts.”

‘Hunt for homeless’

The effort to clarify what hate crimes are and the importance of this legislation fell to Erik Luna, a professor at Washington and Lee University School of Law and an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute. Quoting the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program,



A protester holds an anti-hate sign at a rally in Denver. *REUTERS/Gary Caskey.*

which establishes the guidelines and procedures necessary for collecting data, Luna began by defining the crime itself.

“The UCR guidelines describe a hate crime as a ‘criminal offense committed against a person or property which is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender’s bias.’ In turn, bias is defined as a ‘preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons based on their race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or ethnicity/national origin.’ The guidelines then provide a series of criteria that might support a finding of bias,” Luna said. “All told, the guidelines attempt to provide some type of standards for data collection and a basis for subsequent scrutiny of this information.”

He took issue with some of the reporting by the National Coalition for the Homeless in its latest annual report, “Hate Crimes Against the Homeless: America’s Growing Tide of Violence,” published in August. Luna said that some of the 43 deaths reported were unsubstantiated, as the report itself acknowledges. The methodology for the data collection is inconsistent and therefore unreliable, he said. These facts support the need for data gathering by the FBI, according to Luna.

Cardin introduced U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) as “the voice of many people who otherwise would not be heard in the chambers of Congress.” She spoke in favor of the legislation.

“Between 1999 and 2010 there were more than 1,000 bias-motivated attacks committed against the homeless; 291 of these attacks were homicides,” Johnson said. “This is more than twice the

number of homicides committed in all other hate-group categories combined. A misconception is that these attacks happen to belligerent bums. However, many of these individuals were sought out by their attackers. Some victims never even spoke to their attacker before they were killed.”

Johnson gave two examples of hate crimes committed in 2009, including a wheelchair-bound homeless woman in Seattle who was repeatedly raped by an attacker who said, “I can rape you and get away with it. ... You’re homeless? No one cares about you.” Near the University of Texas at El Paso, four unknown men set a 41-year-old homeless man on fire. He survived the attack but “lives with serious burns.”

“The federal government has fallen behind the states on this issue,” Johnson said. “Currently, there are four states who already recognize homelessness as a category of hate crime. Several more have legislation pending. These are not simply Democratically run states. Florida had a Republican-elected governor and legislature at the time their homeless hate crimes bill was signed into law.

“If Congress continues to not take a stance on this issue, we send the message that we are willing to look the other way. Treating homeless individuals rudely or inhumanely is seen as acceptable by far too many Americans. It is the one group where it is still acceptable in most circles to disparage. How do we end that if even Congress is unwilling to treat these individuals equally?”

Before going onto the next round of testimony, Cardin quoted an advertisement in “a popular men’s magazine”:

“Hunt for homeless. Kill one for fun. We’re 87 percent sure it’s legal.”

‘Protect all Americans equally’

Law enforcement officers are used to seeing the worst of human behavior. While they can be perceived as hardened by the constant barrage of violence in their work, they are also the most well-informed about criminal activity and how to develop strategies to deal with it. Richard Wierzbicki, commander of the Hate Crimes/Anti-Bias Task Force of the Broward County, Florida, Sheriff’s Office in Florida, testified that data is the best place to begin.

“I am a longstanding member of the nation’s law enforcement community with over 32 years of public service and can attest to our profession’s interest in advancing strategies that enhance the prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes committed against the homeless population, including crimes motivated by bias,” Wierzbicki said. “Rigorous and widespread collection, reporting and analysis of bias-motivated crime data is one such solution. ... That is why the Broward County Sheriff’s Office, the largest accredited sheriff’s office in the United States, supports the legislation.”

Wierzbicki also gave examples of homeless people who have been attacked in his community, including one that was videotaped and posted on YouTube.

“The availability of data about bias-motivated crimes is instrumental in inspiring community action to protect various population groups subjected to bias and is critical to law-enforcement agencies for developing plans of action, deploying resources and measuring our progress,” he said. “Take our experience in Broward. I lead the Hate Crimes/Anti-Bias Task Force created in 2008 ... as a direct response to data in the Florida Attorney General’s annual hate-crimes report, which indicated that our county – Broward County – led the state in reported hate crimes.

“The data told us where the crimes were occurring, who was being targeted, and why they were being attacked. Based on the data, we were then able to decide how and where to deploy resources to combat hate. Regrettably, our attorney general’s hate-crimes report – no different than similar reports in other states – did not tell us anything about bias-motivated crimes against the homeless population because such data is not collected as part of uniform crime reporting, even though those of us who have worked the beat know full well that such crimes occur. By lacking such data, our task force simply could not plan a meaningful response to bias-motivated crimes against our large homeless population.”

Wierzbicki said that the legislation will not create an “undue burden” on law enforcement and that the data collection is critical for ensuring public safety.

“It is my strong conviction that it must become standard practice for all law-enforcement agencies to vigorously collect data on the number and types of incidents of bias-motivated crimes against homeless victims,” he said. “When the homeless population is left out of national hate-crime data col-

Three Wise Men in an Occupied Land

It's not the Bethlehem of Sunday school

By **Carly Tamborski**
Contributing Writer

Most people in Western culture aren't very familiar with the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Ask which lands are fighting or why, and most will respond with vague stories about terrorism or suicide bombs they overheard on the evening news; and, of course, most assume the conflict is over religion.

Little Town of Bethlehem, a powerful, eye-opening documentary, explores all sides by telling the stories of three men with distinctive identities in the conflict: One is a Palestinian Muslim, another a Palestinian Christian and the third an Israeli Jew. All three grew up in the cycle of hate and went against their societies' norms to encourage the two lands to resolve issues peacefully, willing to risk everything to end the violence.

Most viewers can connect with one of the faiths represented in the film, but different religious traditions are not what's causing suicide bombs, air raids or discrimination – fear is the root of the problem.

The movie doesn't talk against Israel or Palestine, but rather against the Israeli occupation, focusing on the negative effects often distorted by the media.

Little Town of Bethlehem was screened Sept. 30, free of charge, at the University of Cincinnati by Howard Tolley, professor of political science and director of the UC International Human Rights Certificate Program.

The film referenced both the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, connecting the Israeli/Palestinian struggle with other historical movements that resulted in the expansion of human rights.

Home is a prison

The three main characters speak English, with Arabic subtitles at the bottom of the screen. After the three characters are introduced, the film's title is shown as urban rap music plays and scenes of modern Palestine are shown: people playing volleyball on the beach and lounging in bikinis, armed men, checkpoints, riots and burning flags; people playing cards, smoking a hookah, sharing a family dinner, woodworking and drinking wine. Sami Awad is a Palestinian Christian whose grandparents lived in Palestine. When the oldest was 12 and the youngest was 2, the family lived in a village shared by Muslims, Christians and Jews. In 1948, Israeli forces came and tried to kick the family out of Jerusalem. As Awad's grandfather tried to save his family and escape, a sniper's bullet killed him, leaving Awad's grandmother alone with her seven children.

In 1967, four years before Awad was born, war broke out between Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan. This resulted in the West Bank, Gaza

Strip and parts of eastern Syria being occupied by Israeli forces. Awad's parents fled to the United States. Awad was born in Kansas City, Kansas. His family moved to Bethlehem when he was 6 months old.

Ahmad Al'Azzah is a Palestinian Muslim. Before the conflict, his grandparents lived in a village where Jews were considered neighbors and friends. When Israeli forces came to their village in 1948, his grandparents escaped. His mother was 1 year old at the time, and they lived in caves until 1949.

After that year, they were told to live in a Bethlehem refugee camp for 10 days, but those 10 days became 60 years. Al'Azzah has lived his entire life in the Azzah refugee camp, where he now lives with his wife, three children and mother.

In 1949 the refugee camp had about 900 people. The area is small – 200 meters by 150 meters – so the ability to expand as a community is limited. Since then the camp has grown to more than 2,026 people. Approximately 48 percent are children. Refugees are allowed to come and go during the day, but must return at night to the “prison,” as Al'Azzah referred to it.

“I live in a place where violence could be on a daily basis,” he said.

Yonatan Shapira is an Israeli Jew and former Israeli fighter pilot. His grandparents, Zionist settlers, moved from Eastern Europe to Palestine in 1933. Most of the Zionist activists who went to Palestine in the beginning of the 20th century weren't religious, he said. The immigration was a nationalist movement of people who had enough of anti-Semitism in their old communities. Fifteen years after settling, his parents witnessed the establishment of Israel. Shapira was born on an Israeli Air Force base in 1972; his father was also a fighter pilot.

‘Cry with them’

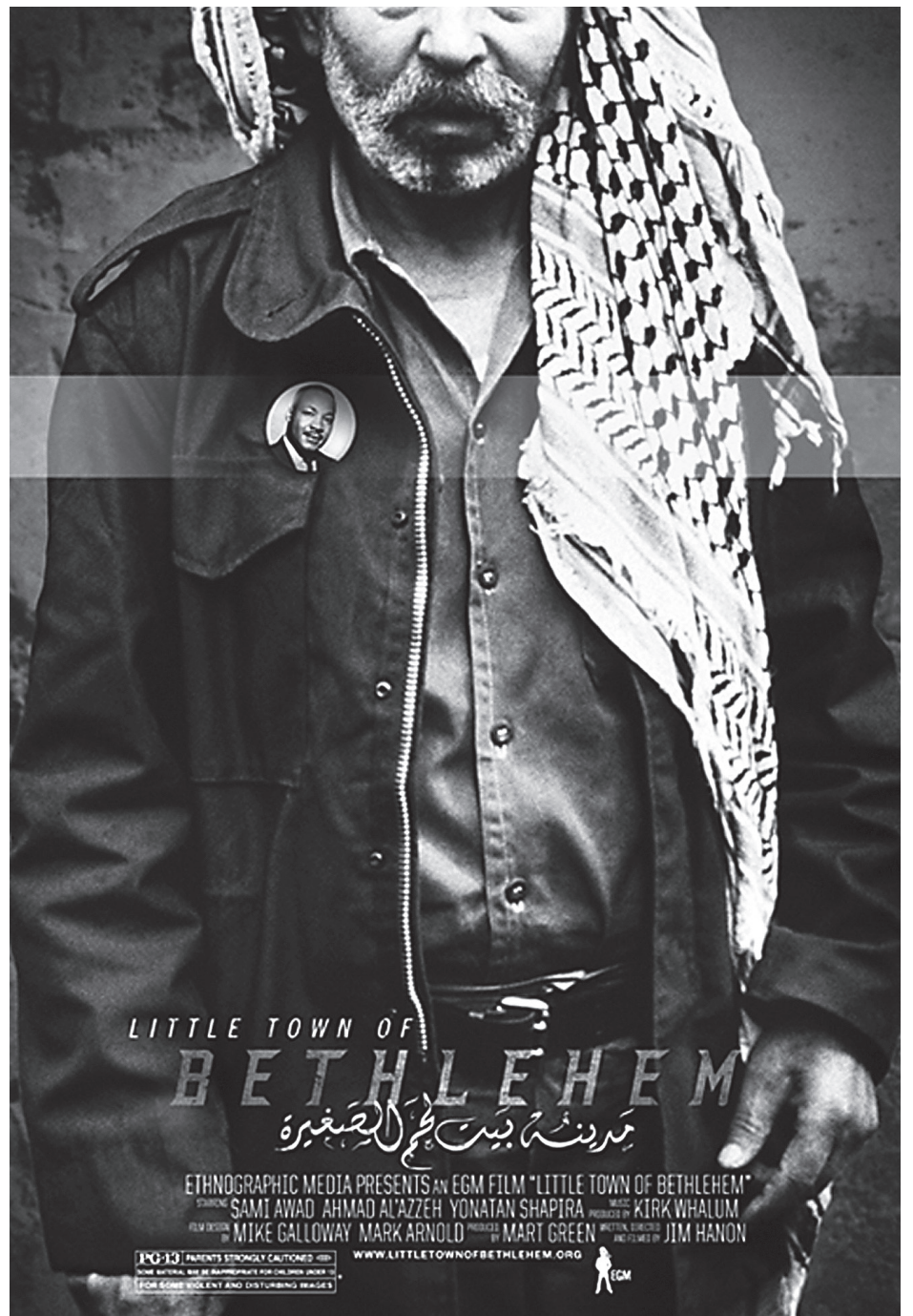
Each of the three main characters discussed what it was like to grow up in their environments, sharing some of the moments that hit them hardest. As their number of violent experiences increased, they came to believe that peace is not achieved through violence.

Awad was greatly influenced by his uncle, who moved to Jerusalem in the 1980s and created the Palestinian Center for the Study of Non-Violence.

“Many people went to my uncle's center with Palestinians in non-violent actions against the occupation, so that opened my eyes to a different world that existed. Israelis came who were neither soldiers nor settlers. I started to hear Israelis say, ‘We understand.’ I heard Israelis say, ‘Forgive us. We don't know.’ That was powerful. It reached the point where my uncle was actually seen as a threat to the security of Israel and led to him being arrested, put on trial and deported.”

His father soon sent him to the United States to finish his education.

Awad moved back to Palestine, settling in Bethlehem, in 1996. He



Courtesy of Ethnographic Media

and his future wife worked at an organization that tried to bring back the concept of non-violence to Palestine. He describes his community as so interconnected that friends from first grade are still his best friends. Some of his friends chose to engage in acts of violence and armed resistance, but Awad did not.

“I'm still friends with those people, and I've seen many of them reach the point where they said violence was a wrong choice,” he said. “I've had friends who've had members of their families in prison or killed, so it's not easy. When people are in pain, you have to feel their pain. When they cry, you have to cry with them. When they're angry, you have to be angry.”

Al'Azzah recalled Israeli soldiers surrounding Bethlehem and shooting at houses. When they started shooting at his house, Al'Azzah's father, mother and some neighbors escaped to the basement. Al'Azzah went back upstairs to save a valuable appliance.

“I wanted to save the TV because we paid a lot of money for it, and we need TV,” he said, laughing.

He carried it to a back room, but soldiers noticed him and started shooting. He laid flat on the floor for 10 minutes – the longest 10 minutes of his life, he recalled.

“I made it down, and everyone was crying because they thought I had turned into a martyr, but I saved the TV, and we still have it,” Al'Azzah said.

In 1996, after studying abroad, Al'Azzah moved back to Bethlehem and opened Holy Land Trust, where he was reintroduced to the woman who became his wife.

Shapira said his high school years included classes in a variety of interesting subjects and a great social life. He loved to hang-glide. At that time he wanted to be an Israeli fighter pilot in the air force like his father, but knew little about Palestinian perspectives.

“When I was in high school, to me, the Palestine Liberation Organization was a group of Palestinians who were very angry and didn't like us,” Shapira said. “Israel was supporting the peace, but very, very militarist, encouraging you to enroll in the army and be a good soldier.”

‘Every child born’

The increase in violence after the creation of Israel created a snowball effect, as more and more problems created an even greater need to address the issue.

In 2002 all the leaders of Arab nations made a peace offer to Israel in what was called the Arab Peace Initiative in Beirut. Within a day or two a suicide attack in Israel sparked a massive military raid in many Palestinian cities, including the siege of the Church of Nativity.

During the arrangements for the peace process, the Israeli government

Continued on next page

tightened its occupation of Palestine, creating more distress for the three men. Permits became necessary to travel between the West Bank and Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza or the West Bank and Israel. Roads were created only for Jews. Checkpoints were established on roadways and access points to borders.

One of Al'Azzah's children has a low immunity and he knocked on every doctor's door and every hospital he could, looking for a treatment in Palestine. He gives his son shots to raise his immunity, but his condition isn't improving. When he realized he had exhausted all the local resources and the Palestinian doctors couldn't help him, the Israelis gave Al'Azzah and his wife a one-time permit to take his son to an Israeli hospital.

During the massive military raid in Palestine shortly after the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, Awad's wife went into labor during a night of fighting, screaming and gunshots. Two of his Spanish journalist friends helped the couple. At a checkpoint, Awad presented his U.S. passport, and his friends presented their Spanish passports. The Israeli guards would allow the three of them through, but not the pregnant woman. That was not an option.

"Then we went on a dirt road that only settlers used and snuck into Jerusalem," Awad said. "The next day our daughter was born in a hospital. We snuck into Bethlehem to be with our family, and on coming from our house, we see the tanks and hear the shooting and shelling and sirens. It was incredible – in the midst of all of this there was such peace in our family. Every child born on this earth is a gift of God. Every child born is born in the image of God."

As a young man, Shapira looked up to his father as a hero, loved his country and was proud to call the Israeli Air Force a key part of his identity.

"The air force directed me to fly helicopters, and I remember saying to everyone, 'They found the best job for me because I'm willing to risk my life to save other people's lives,'" Shapira said. "The Israeli society is very militaristic. The way we're being educated and told about the army is an amazing example of a society that worships power, military strength and growing this nation."

'I can't be silent'

Of course, violence is not a new method of resolving conflict. Wars in the 20th century, the U.S. Civil Rights Movement and studying peaceful leaders impacted each man in his own way.

"I was exposed to Martin Luther King, who had a very strong, very powerful presence," Awad said. "He always had the attention of everyone around him when he spoke. To be strong is not something to be ashamed of, but the message that you bring out is more important. For Martin Luther King, it was a message of non-violence, a message of equality."

The Holocaust influenced both Awad and Shapira, who visited former concentration camps during their ethical journeys.

"I went to Birkenau to witness what really happened in the Holocaust," Awad said. "To be in such a place,

where so many people were killed, seeing the wall of death where thousands were shot, the ovens where people were burned, the ponds where their remains were thrown in – it was horrifying.

"I witnessed busloads of Israeli children with Israeli guards come off the bus and they would walk into Birkenau through the railroad singing the Israeli national anthem. The shocking part was to hear the language this guide was using. Not to explain this violent act as an act that happened against the Jewish community, but humanity in general, and shouldn't happen to anyone in the world – but presenting this act as 'what the Arabs and the Palestinians want to do to us now.' These children are experiencing one of the most traumatic episodes of their life, and many of them probably had family killed in these places. That planted fear in their hearts. They hear, 'Fear the Palestinians, don't trust them, don't make peace with them.' "

In the film, eerie scenery of Auschwitz-Birkenau is paralleled with modern Palestine.

"In high school, I went to Poland to see the concentration camps," Shapira said. "I remember standing next to this huge pile of human ashes and the notion of knowing that I am the son of a fighter pilot and ex-squadant in the Israeli army, I was so proud that we made it, and I am proof of that fact, and I'm standing there."

The world kept silent while Israeli families were executed in concentration camps, as Shapira's family constantly reminded him.

"Because I'm an Israeli, I can't be silent," he said.

He grew increasingly uneasy about the occupation of Palestine.

"It was after they dropped a bomb on a house that killed 15 innocents, including nine children, that left me with a feeling that I'm one of the children's killer," he said.

It was at this time that Shapira questioned his ability to identify with his country or the motives of the air force.

"My older brother called me and said after what he saw and what he experienced, he would not go back," Shapira said. "My younger brother was traumatized by what he was told to do. He told me he has constant nightmares, that he sees the eyes of the Palestinian girl trapped in the car they shot.

'No way back'

Each of the three men had his own method for promoting peace and non-violence.

Shapira participated in a retreat where Israelis and Palestinians lived together for a weekend and promoted dialogue between the two groups.

"The man next to me said his young sister was paralyzed after an Apache Israeli helicopter shot a missile on their neighbor's house," he said. "For the whole weekend, I was very active – talking, organizing things, playing. We sang together, ate together. But I couldn't tell. I couldn't tell anyone that I was a pilot in the air force, and something that was so much a part of my pride I couldn't mention, because I was ashamed."

He also went to a meeting for Courage to Refuse, a group of soldiers, reservists and ex-soldiers

who had the courage to say no to their commanders. He watched as people like him stood on a stage and proudly shared their stories.

"I looked at them with admiration and envied their wholeness," Shapira said.

That meeting inspired him to bring a few pilot friends to another meeting, and he got the idea to join even more pilots with similar beliefs and drafted a letter to the air force. He joined the group Courage to Say No, which refuses to hunt innocent civilians.

"We were raised to love the state of Israel and to contribute to the Zionist enterprise, but we refuse to take part in the attacks in the air force in the concentrations of civilians," the pilots' letter said. "We are of the idea that the air force is an inseparable part of us, but we refuse to hunt innocent civilians. These actions are illegal and immoral, and are the direct result of growing occupation, which corrupts Israeli society as a whole."

The next morning's newspaper criticized the pilots' letter in an article titled, "Rebellion of the Pilots," in which the air force commander referred them as traitors. A few days after the article was published, Shapira's father ran into a friend while grocery shopping. The friend didn't know Shapira was one of the organizers.

"He said to my father they should put us all against the wall and put bullets in our heads," Shapira said. "The air force commander referred to us as traitors. To say, 'No, I'm not going to obey this order or participate in something illegal or immoral,' is very important. But it's just the first step. The second step that is maybe more important is to now reach out to your enemy and to try to correct the wrongdoing on your part."

The first meeting for the group Shapira created, Combatants for Peace, was held in Bethlehem and had 25 Israeli ex-fighters, 25 Palestinian ex-fighters, both men and women, and some had even spent time in prison for fighting against the Israeli occupation.

"The meeting was very, very charged, with people who literally wanted to kill you," Shapira said. "Many of us Israelis were afraid that we'd be kidnapped or killed, and many of (the Palestinians) were afraid that we were collaborating with Israeli intelligence. ... We know there's no way back from here because the 'we' and 'them' cannot exist anymore, and we felt as Israelis we are actually joining the Palestinian non-violent struggle for liberation."

Most of the Palestinians in the group are Muslim. Some are very religious, just as some of the Israeli members are very religious.

"If we who fought against each other and killed each other struggled together in non-violence, anything is possible," Shapira said.

'Fear takes you over'

What makes these people brave is that they're purposefully standing out in a sea of violence to get their message across. People who don't flow with the traditional rules of society tend to get noticed faster, which has definitely been the case for these men.

"I was accused by other Palestinian

political factions of being a collaborator, an agent to the Israelis," Awad said. "It has happened many times that people who are accused of being collaborators were killed. My determination always came and continues to come from seeing how the Palestinian community reacts to non-violence and in turn engages in nonviolence.

All three men had the opportunity to choose a better life in other countries multiple times, but all three refused.

"I've been given many opportunities to live in the U.S.," Awad said. "As difficult as it is, as there is so much pressure here, I feel there's a calling, and you can do something to make the situation better for millions of people. When Jesus talked about loving your enemy, no longer will there be two of them. No longer is there an 'us' and 'them.' As humans, we are one."

Today Al'Azzah trains people in the methods of peaceful activism at the non-violence program at Holy Land Trust, which he heads. He's still unable to take his son to an Israeli hospital.

Because the three main characters in the film are men, gender is somewhat skewed in the film, but women from both Palestine and Israel have been active in the nonviolent movement and side for peace. Some were seen in the film at the checkpoints, and Shapira's mother goes to Palestinian villages every week to give aid and support.

A discussion followed the screening. Each of three panelists representing the three religious viewpoints in the film gave a five-minute statement.

Zeinab Schwen is founder of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

"The situation is distorted by the media," Schwen said. "Even before 1948, Palestinians have used non-violent-like strikes. Even now there are weekly peace demonstrations: Every week people gather together and march against violence. Some have lost their lives to bullets doing so."

The second panelist, Susan Einbinder, a professor at Hebrew Union College, was ordained as a reformed rabbi in 1983. She's also a member of the Refusal Solidarity Network.

"I really want to say that it touched me that no one in the film made the conflict about religion, which is what Western culture typically thinks," she said. "The second part is that all participants describe the militarism of their society."

The power of fear caught the attention of Sister Alice Gerdeman of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center.

"One of the things that struck me was the emphasis of the power of fear and what can happen when fear takes over," she said. "Fear takes you over, and when it takes you over, you don't do rational things. When we allow fear to permeate society, we give up the ability to make rational or kind decisions. There's something wrong in a society when fear of a person or probable event dictates how we're going to react. This film shows how fear can lead people to put up a wall."

City Backing for Affordable Housing

Cincinnati must have an inclusionary ordinance

By Michelle Dillingham
Contributing Writer

As downtown Cincinnati sees major redevelopment projects, most of which receive assistance from the city in one form or another, Affordable Housing Advocates (AHA) continues its quest to ensure there are affordable housing options for all of Cincinnati's citizens.

Of course, "affordable" is relative if one ascribes to the definition that housing cost is affordable if it costs no more than 30 percent of one's income. Using this definition, for someone making \$100,000 a year, "affordable" means something very different from what it means for someone making \$20,000 a year.

Typically, when you hear people talk about "affordable housing," they are generally referring to housing for those who live at or below the federal poverty line. For us in Cincinnati, this means a full one-quarter of us. One strategy that advocates use

to ensure these individuals and families are able to afford housing in new developments is to promote required inclusionary language for those projects that receive city funding.

Last year the Housing Committee of the Cincinnati Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) drafted a proposal for a local inclusionary ordinance, which was endorsed by AHA. If passed, it would require that any market-rate housing development receiving city assistance include some affordable housing. Specifically, developments that receive city assistance would have to have no less than 20 percent of all rental units in each development affordable by households with incomes under 50 percent of area median income, and no less than 20 percent of all residential units for sale in each development would have to be affordable by households with incomes under 80 percent of area median income. This proposal defines "city assistance," showing the variety of ways a developer can (and often does) receive help from the city:

- A developer can receive tax increment financing.
- A developer can receive land acquired through



eminent domain.

- A developer can buy land sold to it by the city at a price less than fair-market value.

- A developer can use a city-funded housing or economic development loan or grant program, including the Community Development Block Grant Program, the federal HOME Program and funds from the general fund or from the

capital fund.

As development deals pass through City Hall day in and day out, many of which include city assistance, the time is ripe to resurrect this discussion once again and keep the focus on how to promote access to affordable housing for all Cincinnatians. It takes a majority – five votes of the city's legislative body, city council – to pass an

ordinance.

One way to keep up on recently passed ordinances is to read the City Bulletin, which includes all legislation passed by city council. The City Bulletin is published by the clerk of council, and anyone can go to the clerk's office on the third floor of City Hall to pick up a free copy.



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Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport

Get involved or get screwed

By Nicholas Hoesl
Guest Columnist

Thank God we still have the print media. Don't you get a little tired of all those TV commercials (excuse me – infomercials) in which candidates tell you all their good points in 30 seconds? Then there are the "attack ads," which send the message, "Why should you vote for me? Well, because my opponent is a bum."

This year we are told that one party might stay home because the other party is angry but enthusiastic at its chances, sucking most of the electricity out of the TV set. Whatever happened to one's civic duty to vote? Show me a no-show and I'll show you a nerd (for lack of a better four-letter word). Even Plato had a message for them: "Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber."

Television has changed politics. Woe to the contender who abhors make-up, comes across as wooden, stiff, or has a smirk on his face. When the late Daniel Schorr asked a producer what it took to be a success on TV, the answer was, "If you can fake sincerity, you've got it made."

The turnout among young no-show voters, the worst age group, is expected to be dismally low this year. Would it suit them if they could vote on-line or from their cell phones? How about giving them a chance on a new car? Would declaring Election Day a holiday help?

It's harder to run for office today. You have to be thick-skinned or be skinned. When President William

Howard Taft was campaigning, someone threw a cabbage at him. It rolled to Taft's feet. He was quick to re-act: "I see that one of my adversaries has just lost his head." Another politician answered an unrelenting heckler, "If I ever need a brain transplant, I'll ask for yours. I want one that hasn't been used."

There are pundits who try to make politics simpler. Political satirist P.J. O'Rourke says, "God is a Republican, and Santa Claus is a Democrat." Here's another definition of the two parties: If a man were drowning 50 feet from shore, a Republican would throw him a 25-foot rope and tell him to swim to the other end of the rope because it would be good for his character. A Democrat would throw him a 100-foot rope and run off for others to save. Then there was the "come on" want ad: Young Republican woman would like to marry young Democrat. Object? Third party.

To be sure, politics can be fun. Will Rogers told us, "Everything is changing. People are taking their comedians seriously and their politicians as a joke." Who couldn't agree more when he added, "Politics has gotten so expensive that it takes lots of money just to get beat with." What would he say today? Jay Leno likes to tell his young audiences, "If God wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates." Political promises can go in one year and out the other. When candidates waffle, have they seen the light or just felt the heat?

Democracy is not a spectator sport. Use it or lose it. Vote often.

EPIC Win



Elderly Persons in Community is about to celebrate its 21st anniversary. Courtesy of EPIC.

An EPIC Community Asks for Your help

Best kept secret in housing for the elderly

By Ruth Ravenna
Contributing Writer

Elderly Persons in Community (EPIC), 910 York Street, has been a home to elderly, low-income men and women for 21 years. The house was renovated to accommodate nine residents at a time. Each has his or her own bedroom with a private bath, community living and dining rooms, three meals a day, laundry facilities and an attendant on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This is not a nursing home. It is a shared living facility for the elderly who cannot live alone, but who do not need the restrictions or expensive care provided in a nursing home.

The residents call EPIC their home and the other residents their family. Most of the residents have no living family to look out for their best interests.

EPIC Home is really their home. It looks like a home and feels like a home. The residents will tell you the home-cooked food is good, almost like their mothers cooked. We all know that

no one cooks like Mom did, so this is a great compliment to those who prepare the meals.

EPIC is celebrating its 21st Anniversary Dinner at 6:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21 in the undercroft at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral. Dinner reservations are \$35 per person. Send your reservation check to Monika Cure-Shahid, 703 Ezzard Charles Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45203.

Like other small non-profit organizations, EPIC has need of financial assistance.

Approximately 65 percent of its funding comes from Residential State Supplement, which is capped at \$877 per month per resident. The actual cost per resident is \$1,350 per month. In order to meet expenses, \$4,257 per month has to come from outside sources. The difference in funding is made up from grants, corporate and private donations and fundraising events. Unfortunately, all sources of funding are less this year than ever before.

Donations can be in the form of a check; goods such as paper products, cleaning supplies, food or storm doors for the four outside doors.

There is always a need for volunteers to help with the grocery shopping or to take residents to their medical appointments.

To help, contact Marlene Hamilton at 513-241-7979 or mail your donation to EPIC, 910 York St., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45214. Donations are tax-deductible.

EPIC is celebrating its 21st Anniversary Dinner at 6:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21 in the undercroft at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral."

Landfill Continued from page 1

as educational materials for students. In the back parking lot of a Cleveland, Ohio, furniture store in 2006, ZeroLandfill was founded.

ZeroLandfill says it has repurposed over 400,000 pounds of expired samples since its founding. With ZeroLandfill programs in Cleveland, Cincinnati, the Twin Cities, Indianapolis, Boston and other cities on the way, this newfound way to think of discarded items has been catching on around the country.

"It started from one guy putting stuff in his garage, and now it has almost grew to a nation-wide thing," Margraf says.

ZeroLandfill Cincinnati alone has kept nearly 80,000 pounds of trash out of the landfills since 2008.

In 2009 a man from Brown County came in a large truck and hauled away thousands of pounds of tile for a project, according to Margraf. The total last year was around 70,000 pounds of material, including large amounts of tile and rubber flooring that were donated.

"You can take as much as you want," Margraf says.

"We just weigh it before they leave, and we record how many pounds of each category of material gets diverted and we total it up at the end," says Carrie Harms, co-chair of ZeroLandfill Cincinnati.

"Architect and interior design libraries are filled

with this kind of material," Margraf says. "They gather it for projects and then it just becomes overwhelming in terms of the amount of materials they have, so this is an outlet for them to provide the stuff they don't want or need to be used in a different way."

The program distributed material to artists and educators on three days last month.

"We're probably close to 10,000 pounds, and it is our last day," said Carrie Harms, co-chair of ZeroLandfill Cincinnati.

They expected the number to rise by the end of the day.

The small Norwood building that operated as distribution headquarters contained small mounds of material along three walls: metal scraps; uniquely shaped and colored pieces of square and rectangle tiles; a long row of huge binders filled with little squares of carpet, each a different color and texture; piles of fabric in hundreds of different prints and styles.

A sign-in sheet showed the diversity of participants. Some people identified their occupations as student or art teacher; others wrote, "Grandmother."

People with a variety of interests pick up the material.

"We get a lot of art teachers, day care centers, artists and just people who are crafty," Harms says. "Anyone can come."



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One Cause, Many Voices: Why We Went

Progressives try to gather strength

Editor's note: Tens of thousands went to Washington, D.C., Oct. 2 for the One Nation Working Together rally. More than 200 people from Greater Cincinnati participated in the rally, including union members, peace activists and members of faith-based groups. Katy Heins collected the following statements from local participants, explaining their reasons.

"I so wanted to attend President Obama's inauguration but was simply unable to make the trip. This trip is a unique opportunity for me to show support for our president at a time when the media seems full of negative information about him and the programs he is putting forward. I have faith that Obama is the best person for the job of bringing this country back to a place that we all can be proud of, so I'm presenting myself in honor of what he's doing and what we might be able to do, as a nation, to live up to our creed."

— Sarah Davis

"I'm going first of all because I believe President Obama is doing a good job. I agree with the direction of his policies and believe they will make for a stronger country in the 21st century. My other reasons are more personal. My father (who is deceased) marched in Selma. My parents were members of NAACP. My Dad was an activist in Harold Washington's mayoral campaign. My husband (also deceased) was an activist in the West End. I believe I am representing them and my granddaughters in standing up for justice for those less privileged."

— Margie Wells-Davis

"The only cushion I have in my life at this time is the solidarity of my union and the century of progress that made it possible for me to have disability benefits. This is a time where there can be a little bit of progress, a reversal of decline for the working



class, or a massive counter-attack by the ultra right that will sweep everything we have fought for, away. I'm going to Washington to join the broadest coalition possible to stop this right wing counter-attack on working people in this country. I recognize, with no illusions, the Democrats are not, nor have ever been in my lifetime, 'my party.' But I also recognize that the current Republican Party is at this time in history my most dangerous enemy. I do not exaggerate. Losing my health care, with as many shortcomings as it has, losing my union contract, losing my disability benefits, in my view is what is at stake. I hope October 2 can be part of the strategy of defeating the ultra right in the November elections and preventing them from re-taking Congress and putting into effect their anti-working class agenda."

— Phil Amadon

"I'm attending this trip to represent a government that stands for change from the old status quo. This climate of status quo has eroded this country for years and should not be allowed to resurface. We must unite and stand in support of our present

administration that vows through democratic means a nation finally at peace in all fronts. This trip adds representation from all those interested in eliminating the fundamental prejudices and misconceptions made by the disruptive force that is intent on dividing this nation and to create chaos where there wasn't. In the words of the great Martin Luther King, 'We shall overcome.' And this dream should live on through our efforts. And I want to be a part of that effort."

— Mike Austine

"The reason I'm going to the One Nation March is because I have three boys that I have to take care of, and I want them to know that, if we all stick together in this world, we as a nation can keep moving ahead. We have had too many leaders who have come before us to make this way already, like Dr. King and Malcolm X. These men died fighting to make this world a better place for us. But if we let the Tea Party people get their way, we will all have more problems than we have now. We can't let that happen. My kids need a better life just as well as their kids will."

— Dina Smith



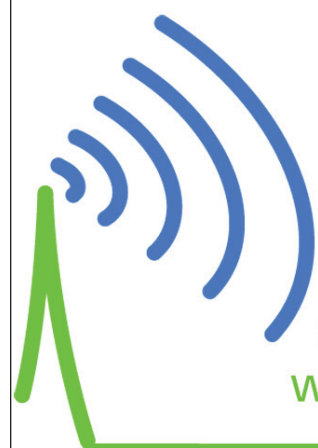
Top: Dan La Botz (gesturing), an Ohio candidate for U.S. Senate, led supporters to Washington for the One Nation rally. Paul Davis.

Above: The One Nation rally drew progressives from across the United States. Paul Davis.

"It means a chance for us as a country to stand up again to rise above the hate for our country, our president and even ourselves. Since Dr. Martin Luther King's 'I have a Dream' speech, when have you seen plenty or anyone have a successful march of people of many colors? You have not. Well, today marks a new beginning, a better tomorrow and a goodbye to yesterday. Yes, we are in a recession. Yes,

we are losing jobs left to right. But if it took eight years to mess up how, can we clean it up in two? What this march means to me is a chance to listen, a chance to be heard, a chance to live, a chance to rise again and a chance to not 'take back America' but to move America forward. Let's be like Rosa Parks: Refuse to let our freedom go."

— Rob Richardson, SEUI Local 1



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Fighting Poverty a Single Page at a Time

Homeless people change their lives by selling street papers

Danielle Batist
Street News Service Editor

Buying a paper at cost price and selling it for the cover price – keeping the proceeds. It sounds like a very simple business model, and it is. But providing an income is only the first tool street papers use to tackle homelessness and exclusion.

Every day, street paper vendors around the world hit the streets with the latest edition of their paper or magazine. They sell from their designated pitch in busy shopping streets, outside malls or in front of office buildings, hospitals, universities, sports grounds or train stations. They are there, come rain or shine, working to earn their own living in an increasingly challenging climate.

They are people like Steven Robert, a vendor in Cape Town, South Africa, who like so many people moved to the city as a teenager with big dreams. But without money or a job, he roamed the streets, struggling to meet his basic needs. When two of his close relatives passed away, loneliness kicked in even harder. It was through the street paper that he found back purpose in his life.

“Life is still not easy for me,” Robert says. “I live in a homeless shelter, but at

least I’m earning an income selling *The Big Issue*. If I’m having a tough day at work, I go to the park and take a spin on the playground roundabout. When I have cleared my mind, I go back to my pitch and get on with the business of selling the magazine. My dream is to have a place of my own. I’d like to set up a small home-based business, as I am now a good salesman. I tell other vendors to keep pushing forward with the skills that they have and to never give up.”

More than 100 street papers across the globe, in cities like London, Cape Town, Chicago, Oslo, Tokyo and in between, share that same vision: to provide the means and opportunity for homeless people to help themselves.

Vendors with street papers can access a range of other services, including sales training, drug and alcohol counseling and housing support. Several street-paper projects also run savings programs and art and literacy classes or organize rehabilitative sports activities.

“Street papers are a hand up, not a hand

out,” says Lisa Maclean, executive director of the International Network of Street Papers (INSP).

An international charity organization, INSP unites and supports 110 street papers, including *Streetvibes*, in 40 countries. The network was founded in 1994 with a handful of street papers and a few hundred vendors. Today more than 200,000 homeless vendors



Street papers from around the world. INSP.

See **Street**, P. 14



Streetvibes wants to interview President Obama. REUTERS/Larry Downing.

Volunteer requests interview for street newspapers worldwide

Dear President Obama,

I volunteer as a contributing writer for *Streetvibes*, the award-winning street paper from Cincinnati, Ohio. *Streetvibes*, published by the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless, is part of the International Network of Street Papers, reaching millions of readers around the world.

Vendors, who are financially struggling, homeless or formally homeless individuals, go through training and become certified distributors of a street paper. At *Streetvibes*, vendors distribute the paper throughout the community for a profit of 75 cents per copy, which serves as a supplemental income. I am reaching out to you to request an interview for *Streetvibes* on behalf of street papers, our vendors and the international community.

Streetvibes is non-profit and grassroots. It does not take government money.

Streetvibes also doesn't pay its writers and photographers. We are all volunteers.

Many street paper vendors in the United States are veterans, so this is a sensible venue to talk about your agenda to broaden support for veterans with PTSD.

Should you grant this request, *Streetvibes* will collaborate with our vendors to include their questions. Street papers aim to be the voice of homeless individuals and homeless or poverty-stricken families, who are often left voiceless in the public discourse.

The interview would be published in street papers worldwide, so by granting an interview to the street-paper community, you would be recognizing a legitimate source of grassroots journalism, positively reaching out to the international community and getting in touch with the roots of how your campaign started. There is no amount of partisanship that can undo that. No president has yet granted an interview to a street paper, so this is an historic and long overdue request.

Sincerely,
Ariana Shahandeh



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1 & 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

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The Welcome Tour: Camp Smedley Butler, Okinawa*By David S. Pointer*

The dead Marine's mother
Is being escorted around
Okinawa, she arrives at
The Provost Marshal's
Office with the officer
of the day fairly early
in the morning, and an
incarcerated prisoner
elects to bombard her
with his fresh feces.
The desk sergeant has
me trade my blackgear
and .45 for a mop and
bucket high blocking
prisoner haymakers
while helping him to
hold his new mop and
conduct unbecoming
becomes a clean
black tile floor

In My Heart*By Booger Love*

They got into my heart over the years
When other people tried I walked away
From them and left but when it come to

Your kids, there's no walking out on you all
I have a lot of little sisters and a lot
Of little brothers that love me

So much they are a lovely family and
They won't give up on you and I
Tried to walk out on a lot of them

But they put Jesus on me and He
Opened my heart up so they could get
In and now they are indeed in my heart

I love my younger family with
All my heart and they are deep in
My heart forever and ever always

This is my story about my young
Family I can't walk out on
Hope to see all of you soon

Love you all with all my heart

"Homeless and Alone"*By Elisa Hill*

I may be homeless and alone, but
that doesn't mean I'm any less
important.

I too have a heart and a reason to
be alive.

It just may take me longer.
With a greater will to survive.
I've endured all the stairs and the
questions of why I don't have a
home.

I sleep in the grass like I am one
of many sheep being tended to in
a flock.

We fall in tune and the loneliness
never seems to stop.

I pray nightly hoping for a better
tomorrow.

Hoping for a place to stay.
A decent meal to eat.
A nice warm shower to clean my
feet.

But my reality is that I am
homeless and alone.
I come from a big family with
plenty to spare.

Only problem is I was too far
gone in my addiction.
To understand all the hurt I had
caused.

So I do not hold any blame unto
my family.

For me, I did this to myself.
Each day now I do go to
counseling and seek help.
I go to groups and while I wait, I
listen.

To others' stories of despair and
hurt, of how hard it is to allow
yourself the right to be better.

Have a drug free life.
I just feel so grateful to be alive.
Many nights I thought it would
be my last.

There are times at night I relive
my deadly past.
Of smoking crack and selling my
body.

To being beaten and thrown out
like trash.

I managed to make it through to
see another day of life.

At this time I may be struggling,
but I know things will get better.

As long as I continue to pray.
Seek help for my addiction.

Most of all stay true to myself.
No one can do this for me.

I must fight for my own life and
health.

So today I am homeless and
alone.

Tomorrow I will struggle to fight
on.

See, I am important and worthy
of life.

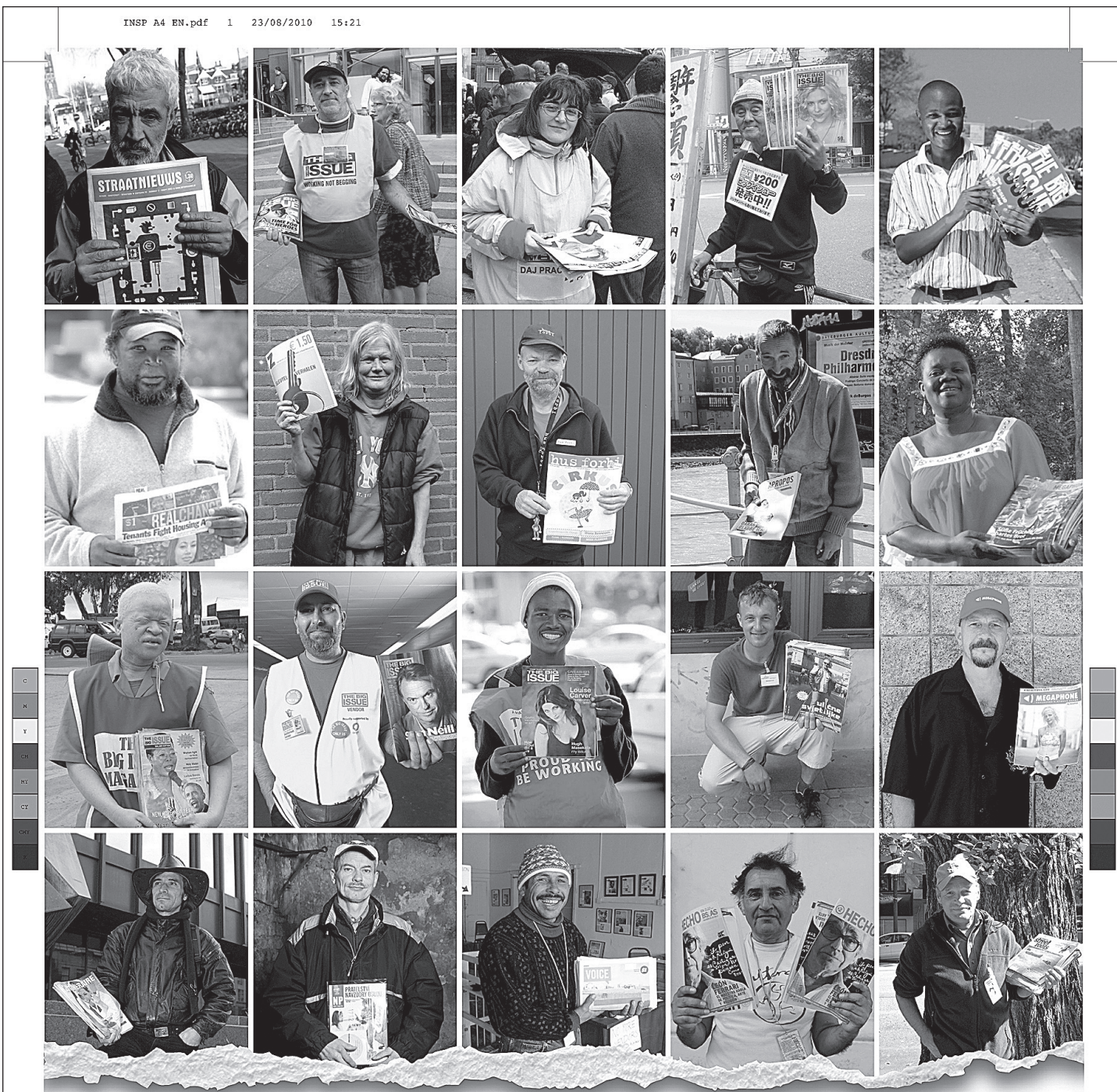
So when you walk by and see me
sitting on the grass,
Please don't pity me.

I accept my mistakes and will
regain my composure.

God is my blessing.
My life can be renewed.

I start today while you're there
sitting reading the news.

Homeless and alone, we're
important too.

**The future is in your hands**

Every day, 114 street papers like this one help homeless people worldwide to escape poverty. So far, thanks to millions of readers like you, 200,000 vendors in 40 countries have earned a living and changed their lives.

Learn more and get involved at www.street-papers.org/2010



International
Network of
Street
Papers

Women Flee, and White Men Just Can't Think

A modest proposal to end electile dysfunction

By **David Heitfield**
Contributing Writer

My secret high-school crush was a beautiful, intelligent woman who was way out of my league. She was my little red-haired girl (although blond), so I couldn't actually talk to her; we would flirt by ringing the landline phone once to let the other know s/he was being thought about, and the occasional anonymous prank phone call. As soon as she got the chance, she got the hell out of Ohio.

Times have not changed. Attractive, intelligent women do not think about riches, or landing the man of their dreams; they simply think about getting out of Ohio. All the time. When they get up, when they go to sleep, when they eat, when they poop, when they make love. The few who manage to stick around, usually because they have a family or they've lobotomized themselves with alcohol or religion, still dream about leaving Ohio and berate themselves for never doing so.

And the latest Quinnipiac University poll gives good evidence that while the weather might be cited as the reason our women want to leave, the real reason is that Ohio men are the most self-absorbed idiots on the planet. How else to explain the overwhelming desire of Ohio men (63 percent to 30 percent) to send President George W. Bush's former budget director to the U.S. Senate, all in the name of "change"?

"It would seem that Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher's best shot at victory might be finding a way to stop men from voting," opined Peter Brown, polling assistant director.

I'd take it further: The only way to save democracy, our economy, our country is to stop white men from voting. Let 'em spit and scream and scratch their nuts on the radio and cable news and in the bars. Just don't let them near a voting booth.

Now, I have many white male friends, being one myself; even so, I must admit that, as a group, Ohio white males are incapable of complex thinking outside sports or the occasional stray thought, "I wonder if that penis enlargement pill really works."

And while taking away their right to vote is probably not feasible, at least until China takes over in 30 years or so, we could tweak the voting process itself in a way

that will promote true democracy, decentralize the two-party system, and confuse the poor Ohio white male in a way that he'll need a pill just to have an Election.

But first we need to understand the source of the problem, and for that I'll turn to the Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, who understood the basis of white-male thought better than anyone.

Life is paradox and uncertainty, stupid

First, let's acknowledge that any attempt to encapsulate Kierkegaard in a few paragraphs is itself banality. But when the argument is to take away the white male's voting power – and you're probably one of three people reading this in a newspaper you bought to help some homeless person – it's best not to take ourselves too seriously here.

For Kierkegaard, the essence of human life is anxiety, and the fully realized life courageously embraces this fact. Any attempt to "let go" or relieve oneself of such angst is cowardly and always results in self-deception and despair.

Anxiety comes from the existential angst resulting from a self that is a synthesis of elements that will always remain in opposition to each other: the human vs. the "natural" realm, self-assertion vs. relating to others, finite vs. infinite, subjective vs. objective, necessity vs. possibility, temporal vs. eternal. The anxiety of human life only goes away when one ceases to be a complete person – basically through death, insanity or self-deception.

In his seminal work, *Either/Or*, Kierkegaard presents two distinct ways of living: The first is that of the romantic idealist, and the response is from the "ethicist" (a Christian judge) who argues for an enlightened ethical life. Many college students who read the work mistakenly see it as a progression – that is, that the "ethical" life is a higher state of being than the romantic non-conformist.

Kierkegaard actually preferred a third option – his infamous "leap of faith" – but of the two, he was clearly partial to the former, because the romantic at least tried to make life "interesting." For all his reasoned sense of social obligation, the ethicist merely turns his life into an abortion. (See Limbaugh, Rush.)

For our purposes, Kierkegaard saw the basis of white male thinking – bourgeois life – as personification of the Hegelian dialectic: That is, all conflicts that are the paradox of human life should be synthesized and

"resolved" for some "greater good." Since Kierkegaard believed such synthesis to be impossible, the white-male way of thinking is nothing more than cowardly self-deception.

Easy money, easy life, easy religion, finding the path of least resistance – all come at the price of one's humanity. You gain a little peace, you go to sleep thinking you are always right, and you lose your integrity in the process.

And that's how the white men of Ohio end up sending George W. Bush's budget director to the U.S. Senate. The results of the Quinnipiac poll are filled with hysterically self-deceptive paradox: 37 percent of voters say they are angry at the federal government; and of those, 81 percent support sending George W. Bush's former budget director back to Washington. Forty-five percent of Ohio voters say the economy is getting worse, and so 79 percent of those voters favor sending George W. Bush's former budget director back to Washington.

Home on the range

Range voting is the best answer I know. Both major parties hate it, and for good reason: It invites paradox and uncertainty into the results. Third-party candidates would actually have a chance to gain power and influence.

Pollsters would hate it, moneyed interests on both sides would hate it. No longer would the Democratic Party run on the "We suck less than they do" platform. Political ads couldn't just attack one candidate, but would have to attack several; and in doing so, negative ads would be much less effective.

Studies have shown that the real winners in range voting are the voters themselves: They come out of the voting booth with a much greater sense of satisfaction.

It's so simple, and it so reflects our own vox populi culture that the only reason this isn't getting more press and acceptance is that it scares the hell out of the established order.

Instead of voting for a single candidate, you vote for *each* candidate based on a "range" of scores, say, 1-10. For example, say you have Bush, Clinton and

Nader running for president. You like Nader, but you don't want to "throw your vote away" by voting for him, thus helping Bush. With range voting, no problem: Give Nader a 10, since you like him best; give Clinton a 6, since you like him better than Bush; and give Bush a 1, since you think he sucks. Instead of making a "false" choice based on some self-deceptive resolution for the "greater good," you vote in accord with how you feel about each candidate. You have an authentic vote, rather than a cowardly vote.

Cincinnati has a history of trying to change the voting system, given its brief try at proportional representation in the 1950s and subsequent attempts to put proportional representation on the ballot. There is good evidence that range voting is superior to proportional representation and would appeal to a wider political spectrum of voters.

For more information, you can go to RangeVoting.org. I'd also recommend an interesting read from William Poundstone, *Gaming the Vote*, although I believe it might be out of print now, even though it only came out two years ago.

At the very least, maybe angry voters who hate the federal government and think the economy sucks will evaluate their vote a little more closely before sending George W. Bush's budget director back to Washington. And maybe, just maybe, we can keep some of those intelligent, attractive women in Ohio. Until January, anyway.



The only way to save democracy, our economy, our country is to stop white men from voting."

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Bertha Helmick, Esq.
651-9666.

Crime Continued from page 3

lection and reporting, we fail in our responsibility to protect all Americans equally.”

‘Almost a sport’

But not everyone was in agreement during the hearing. David B. Muhlhausen introduced himself as a research fellow in empirical policy analysis with the Heritage Foundation but immediately distanced himself from his credentials, stating “The views I express in this testimony are my own and should not be construed as representing any official position of the Heritage Foundation.”

“While every case of a violent act committed against homeless person is tragic and should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, the prevalence of these crimes do not rise to a level that requires formal data collection by the federal government,” Muhlhausen said.

He cited the conclusion – “deadliest year in a decade” – in the annual report by the National Coalition for the Homeless.

“By the collation’s own count there were only 43 ... homicides in 2009. To properly understand the prevalence of these murders as a percentage of all murders reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation: In 2009 the FBI counted 15,241 murders in the United States,” Muhlhausen said. “The 43 murders counted by the National Coalition for the Homeless represents 0.28 percent of all murders reported by the FBI. Conversely, all other murders accounted for 99.72 percent of the total. Needless to say, the number of murders of homeless by domiciled individuals is a minuscule fraction of total murders.”

Muhlhausen challenged the need for collecting data related to “perceived social problems.”

“When Congress considers the need for collecting data on any social phenomena, the nature of the evidence presented to Congress should be instrumental to the decision-making process,” he said. “A wrong assessment of the evidence can lead Congress to waste valuable resources. An objective and fair analysis of the data presented in the collation simply does not provide support for the need for the Hate Crimes Against the Homeless Statistics Act.

“While some may argue that the lack the of reliable and objective data on the number of crimes committed against the homeless by domiciled individuals is justification enough for federal intervention, such logic leads the federal government down the unending road of collecting data on any perceived social problem, whether the problem warrants attention by the Federal government. The Hate Crimes against the Homeless Statistics Act of 2009 is unnecessary.”

Cardin was surprised that Muhlhausen testified against the bill – he said he was expecting to hear testimony in support – and responded by turning Muhlhausen’s point back on him.

“I appreciate you mentioning the statistics of the advocacy community,” Cardin said. “The issue is whether we have the same numbers as to the number of people who are victimized because they’re homeless versus the other statistical information we have about violent crime, which is collected in a different manner. It seems to me we’re comparing apples to oranges.

“The debate today ... is to decide whether we have adequate information to make judgments.”

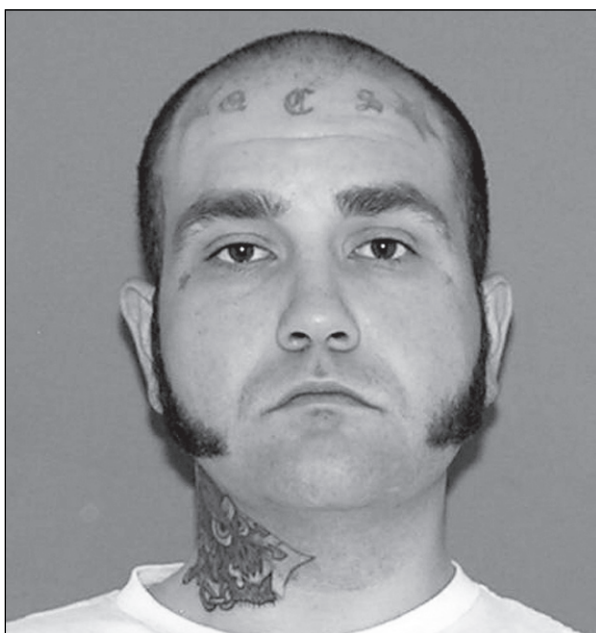
Cardin pointed to the ease with which this data could be collected: Wierzbicki said it would be as simple as adding a check box with “homeless” as a category, in the same way that law enforcement already identifies hate crimes against religious, ethnic, gender and other protected groups.

“I applaud your efforts with the Hate Crimes/Anti-Bias Task Force,” Cardin said. “You have recognized that you have an issue that you need to deal with in Broward County. ... I take it that you are seeing crimes, violent crimes committed against individuals solely because they’re homeless.”

“Correct,” Wierzbicki said.

“They’re not being targeted for robbery,” Cardin said. “They’re not being targeted for an anger assault. They’re being targeted because they are being perceived by the attacker as a worthy victim because they are homeless.”

“The beatings in Broward County ... it was almost a sport and the attacks were very violent,” Wierzbicki said. “The research shows that the attacks on home-



Michael Hesson of Norwood has been charged in the brutal beating of a homeless man in Cincinnati. *Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.*

less are more violent because the attackers view them as sub-human. They have no place to retreat.”

Cardin returned to Muhlhausen and asked if he’d object to having “uniform national information” on status crimes related to race, religion or homelessness that goes beyond types of crimes. Muhlhausen said he agrees that data collection is a good idea but doubts that the report by the National Coalition for the Homeless “rises to the level” of “requiring national legislation.”

“I do not oppose collecting the basic information,” he said. “What I’m concerned about is that the data presented in a way to suggest that there’s a rising tide of violence and in fact there is no tide.”

“We don’t know that,” Cardin said.

“Based on the evidence that we have,” Muhlhausen said.

“If you base it on the evidence of the advocacy community, then we do have a rising tide,” Cardin countered. “We do have a problem, that there has been an increased amount of violence. It reminds me of people who say we shouldn’t try to stop war because we can’t stop all wars. We can’t fight for human rights because we can’t end all human rights abuses.”

“The fact is that there are other segments of society that are probably far more victimized,” Muhlhausen said. “Burglars target people with homes; we’re not concerned about that. What about crimes about people with homes? We’re not collecting statistics on that as a hate crime.”

“But we do have uniform statistics on that,” Cardin said. “I take issue with you. We do have good information on burglaries in this country. We don’t on attacks against the homeless. You say you don’t object to having good information. You say you don’t object to having it isolated into protected classes. I interpret from your comments that you want to be opposed to this bill – and it’s your right to do that – but I don’t see any rational support for it.”

Like a smoke alarm

Cardin then turned to Brian Levin, director of the nonpartisan Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, where he teaches in the Department of Criminal Justice, and asked him to address one of the reasons for addressing homelessness statistics – ending homelessness in this country. Cardin wanted to know if this data collection could ultimately help military veterans, victims of domestic violence, addicts and others get off the streets and prevent people from losing housing.

“With unemployment at over 9 percent, the housing situation, which has been well documented ... it’s important to recognize that many people who never thought they would be homeless have in fact become homeless,” Levin said. “It would be nice to have some common sense prevail here.

“As Professor James Weinstein from Arizona said, Kristallnacht was more than the sum of assault and arson that took place on the evening of November 8, 1938. These are offenses are against a pluralistic democracy.”

Kristallnacht, German for “Night of Broken Glass,”

The Size of the Problem

“With 43 known deaths, 2009 was the deadliest year for attacks on homeless people in a decade and the second highest since NCH (National Coalition for the Homeless) began tracking the violence in 1999. NCH has found startling data in the number and severity of attacks. However, the reports also acknowledge that since the homeless community is treated so poorly in our society, many more attacks go unreported.

- 1,074 reported acts of bias motivated violence have been committed against homeless individuals between 1999-2010.
- 291 homeless individuals lost their lives as a result of the attacks.
- Reported violence has occurred in 47 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.

“Our data also suggests that the perpetrators of these attacks tend to be young men and teenaged boys. In the 11-year history of our hate-crime reports, the vast majority of the attacks against homeless people have been committed by youth as young as 10 years old. In 2009:

- 80 percent of the attacks were committed by people under 30 years of age.
- 98 percent of perpetrators were men.
- Nearly one in three attacks ended in death.

Source: National Coalition for the Homeless Annual Report – *Hate Crimes Against the Homeless: America’s Growing Tide of Violence*, published August, 2010.

For the full report, visit <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/hatecrimes/hatecrimes2009.pdf>.

For more information on the Senate hearing, visit <http://judiciary.senate.gov/hearings/hearing.cfm?id=4815>.

was a Nazi pogrom in which 91 Jews were murdered, between 25,000 and 30,000 were placed in concentration camps, more than 1,000 synagogues were destroyed and tens of thousands of Jewish businesses and homes were looted. It is widely considered the prelude to the Holocaust.

“The criminal law consistently looks at the context, the target, the timing, the occasion and the motive of offenses. ... The U.S. Supreme Court held ... motive is something that the government can punish by statutes, not just with regard to sentencing,” Levin said.

“For example, burning a church in a pluralistic society such as ours is different than burning a barn. And we have to look at the fact that many of the homicides that take place are due to things we would call routine, personal relationships – bar fights, intimate. These are horrible crimes, but the notion of random attacks by people who select others because the status characteristic is egregious.

“In the same way a smoke alarm sends out a message that something is wrong, I believe that we have enough data to indicate that there’s an additional problem. ... The homeless are regarded as a socially acceptable target for aggression.”

In written testimony, Levin addressed the issue of devaluing homeless people. He quoted President Barack Obama at the signing of hate-crime legislation in 2009: “At root, this isn’t just about our laws; this is about who we are as a people. This is about whether we value one another.” And he went on to say explain how gathering data – an apparently clinical activity – is essential to the valuation of human life.

“One of the hallmarks of our civilized society is our national commitment to the transparent collection and analysis of official data that impact the public’s health, safety and welfare. ... Advancements in computer-aided crime data collection ... will significantly enhance our knowledge to combat a terrible evil scourge that is killing and maiming some of the most vulnerable souls in our society,” Levin wrote.

Reviewing the arguments against adding the bill, Levin chose to focus significant attention on the question of “choosing to be homeless.”

“Perhaps the least impressive argument relates

Continued on next page

to the mutability of homeless status,” he wrote. “The argument states that homelessness, unlike race, is a changeable condition that most people would not want, so why offer to count it or protect on the basis of that condition? As a practical matter, mutability is a diversion from proper analysis of whether a group characteristic should be covered in hate crime laws, because many currently covered categories are in fact mutable.

“Hate-crime categories like religion, nationality, gender, age or disability are either mutable or potentially so. The fact that one’s religion can be altered does not make it less worthy of statutory recognition, and for that reason it is covered in both federal law and by virtually every state statute. Furthermore, the fact that a particular status characteristic, like disability, is one that many would not choose has not precluded its inclusion in many statutes either.”

‘That’s not America’

Cardin pointed out that Simone Manning-Moon

eloquently explained how some people find the only way to manage life obstacles is to live on the street. Her brother, Norris Jay Gaynor, was a man with mental disabilities, who was beaten to death in Florida in 2006 for being homeless.

“Your brother, Norris Jay Gaynor ... was proud that he was taking care of himself on the streets,” Cardin said. “I’m impressed by the fact that he didn’t want to take government benefits because he thought he could take care himself. He didn’t ask much of this country.”

“He didn’t,” Manning-Moon said. “If he did realize on some days that he needed help, his innate notion that he shouldn’t rely on the government or anyone ... took over and won out. It is ironic that his killers ... actually had many of, if not more of, the problems my brother had in his younger years, but they somehow never carried the accompanying notion that they were to man-up and try to take care of themselves.”

Cardin told Manning-Moon that it was reasonable for her brother to expect this country – which promotes and defends freedom and diversity – to address

hate crimes.

“The local newspaper described one of the convicted killers of my brother and the attacker of two others that night as ‘someone whose friends said routinely went out seeking homeless people to beat and attack.’ If we think about what the value would be of having legislation would actually help law enforcement ... track, understand, have on their radar this type of behavior – imagine what the possibilities if that tracking had happened earlier and Brian Hooks would have been identified earlier as someone who is prone to this type of behavior,” Manning-Moon said.

Closing the hearing, Cardin thanked the panelists for their testimony and putting a face on the broad concepts being discussed. In what could have been rhetoric for supporting a foreign war and fighting terrorism, he summarized the argument for passage of the Hate Crimes Against the Homeless Statistics Act.

“The nation’s first priority is to protect its citizens,” he said. “When someone is brutally attacked or put in harm’s way solely because they don’t have a roof over their head – that’s not America.”

Union Continued from page 1

Over time, workers began to complain about how dirty the microwaves had become. Runtz Sr. said that, because the workers were the ones who used them, it was their responsibility to clean them.

“I kept telling them to clean them, and finally I threw them out because of the roaches,” Runtz Sr. said.

Workers told their churches about the loss of the microwaves, then brought in new microwaves that had been donated, according to Runtz Sr.

Dienger says Runtz Sr.’s version isn’t true.

“Part of the issue with the microwaves was that they belonged to the workers, but the owners threw them away,” she said.

Runtz Sr. doesn’t consider himself a difficult employer.

“We don’t enforce the rules we’re supposed to enforce,” he said. “We’re pretty lenient.”

Employees are supposed to go through a 90-day training period, when they’re paid \$8-8.50 an hour, but Tri-State Beef only makes employees go through a 30-day training period, after which they’re paid at least \$9 an hour, Runtz Sr. said.

Some workers arrive around 5 a.m., but most arrive at around 6:30 a.m. and leave at 4:30 p.m. They have 15-minute breaks in the morning and afternoon.

Dienger acknowledged that the workers like Runtz’s lenient attitude about scheduling, and thinks some might have voted against the union because they were afraid they would lose that flexibility.

“We told them that they’d still be able to have that type of freedom, but like I said, it was just the sheer intimidation and fear of not having a job or the fear that things were going to change,” Dienger said.

A bloody mess

A tour of the plant showed the environment to be disgusting, of course – it’s a slaughterhouse. The company and its employees would be out of work if they didn’t cut up cows everyday. The company processes 210-220 cows a day.

The smell was wretched. Inside and outside the building, flies periodically landed on arms, legs and faces. Runtz Sr. led the tour.

He walked to the microwaves, three stacked on top of each other on a shelf. Speckles of old, dry food stuck on the inside from lunch breaks past. He turned and stopped at a doorway, of-

fering a peek inside but warning about what lurked beyond it.

The slaughter room was large and open. Blood flowed and settled in pools on the gray floor before being washed down a drain. Carcasses of cows hung upside-down from a track that danced around the perimeter of the room. Some of the bodies still had heads, while others were decapitated and skinned. Others were cut down the middle, and the innards had become outtards.

Employees seemed upbeat, joking and laughing. Granted, the owner had just walked through the door, but friendly shouting, joking and conversations between workers echoed through the building.

Runtz Sr. only allowed a few steps into the slaughter room. Walking further could contaminate the process. White aprons soiled with blood were a staple of every employee in the room, and walking just a few steps closer would’ve gotten a visitor spattered with blood as well.

Before leaving the slaughter room, Runtz Sr. thanked the workers and asked if they were happy, to which they replied with laughs and “Oh yeah.”

After showing the freezer room, walking upstairs to a hallway off the entryway, Runtz Sr. stopped a worker who was cleaning his equipment.

“Hey, Jose, do we treat you bad? Yell at you or anything?” Runtz Sr. said.

The employee smiled and shook his head, saying “No.”

That response isn’t surprising, according to Dienger.

“When the owners are standing outside the building with the workers, of course the workers feel like they have to say they love their jobs,” she said.

In a press release prior to the rally, Dienger gave a less cheery picture of Tri-State Beef.

“The plant owner and his family have been continuing intimidating and trying to divide the workers with continued threats of shutting the plant down, surveillance of workers as they talk to union organizers and forcing workers to remove union stickers that they have the right to wear,” she wrote. “The plant is approximately 70 percent Latino and the rest split between white and black Americans. Some of the reasons workers have been trying to organize is to stop discrimination in their pay and the way they are treated, to obtain living wages and fair wage increases, and to improve safety conditions at the plant.

“At least one out of every five workers



The union rally attracted more support than the union election did. *Jon Hughes/Photopresse.*

have been injured on the job, and recently Tri-State Beef received a serious offense and fine from OSHA (Occupational Safety and health Administration) for not having a guard placed over the trough where the entrails are disposed without which workers could fall into and be seriously injured.”

Runtz Sr. dismissed the allegations. “We’ve never had any problems or complaints before,” he said. “All I know is, one day a church tried to call OSHA, but I don’t care. Let them. None of what those people are saying is true.”

Like it or leave it

Recent union organizing campaigns in Greater Cincinnati have had mixed success. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 75 won an election to represent workers at American Food Group. But workers at Champion Windows turned down a bid to join the Iron Workers Shopmen’s Union.

Unions enable employees to collectively negotiate their wages and working conditions, potentially obtaining benefits they wouldn’t have received on their own. Also, union-sanctioned strikes are legal, so workers can’t be fired for striking. The possibility of strikes makes employers realize that downtime will hurt productivity, and a negotiated solution might be better for both owner and employee. Unions can offer training courses for workers to advance in their fields, encourage teamwork, give legal protection and keep workers from being exploited by their employers.

Others, however, argue that unions

could raise wages and benefits to unrealistically high levels above what the market can sustain. This causes the owner to raise the costs of goods, making them unattractive to customers. Some believe unions pit employees against employers, instead of bringing the two together to create quality products. Unions also require members to pay dues.

The reason workers at Tri-State Beef rejected union membership is clear, according to Runtz Sr.

“These people are happy with what they’re doing,” he said. “I don’t know why they’d be afraid of me. I’m the easiest going guy in the world.”

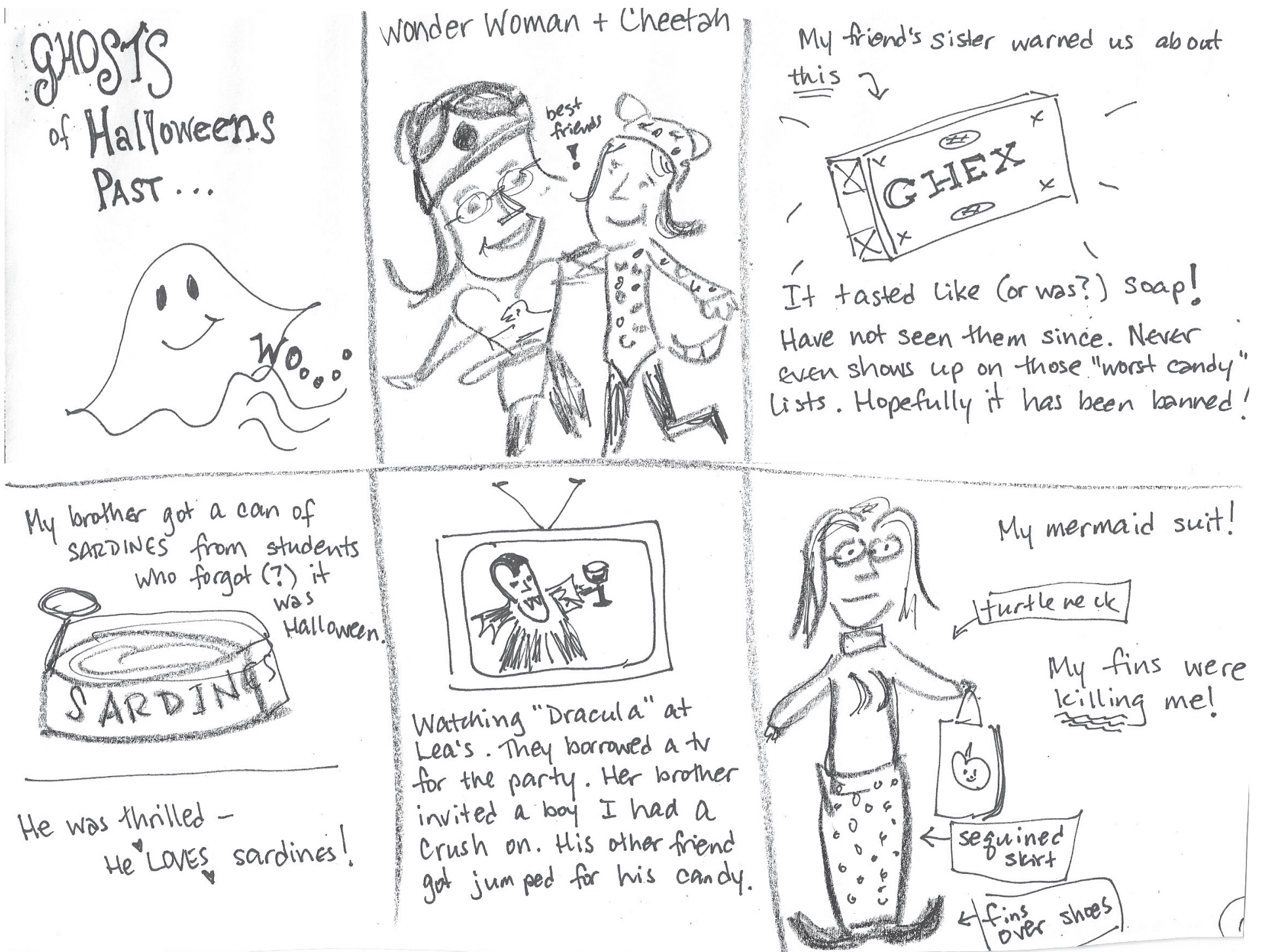
But Dienger sees it differently. When working conditions are poor in any company, it’s easy for workers to complain to each other or talk to one another about it, but not many workers are OK with being the whistle-blower about the company’s anti-union campaign, she said.

“It’s definitely illegal to say they’re going to shut the plant down, but it’s hard to find employees who are willing to go and be a witness in front of their boss, in front of the labor board, and say, ‘Yes, I heard that,’” Dienger said. “So, if and when people are willing to do that, that’s when they could make more progress.”

But Roy Runtz, another of the owner’s sons, said the company’s workers have other choices.

“If you don’t like how you’re treated, go work somewhere else like McDonald’s or White Castle and see if they pay you more,” he said.

Cartoon by Anne Skove

One Street Paper at a Time Continued from page 9

around the world have improved their lives through selling INSP street papers.

Maclean's aim is to increase that figure over the next few years.

"In the 16 years of our existence, the INSP network has grown immensely," she says. "The number of existing papers on all continents has expanded and we have helped to launch new ones, particularly in Africa.

"The 200,000 figure is a landmark for us, but we always look at the road ahead. Street papers provide an opportunity unlike any other charity, giving

homeless and marginalized people a chance to speak out, earn a living and change their lives. Our job is to unite these papers and support them in their fight against homelessness, poverty and social exclusion around the world."

Coinciding with the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17, INSP released the outcome of its latest study into the impact of street papers on poverty and homelessness elimination. The research shows that, in 2009, 71 per cent of street papers helped their vendor force

to get out of their homeless situation and move on. In addition to providing an income, 84 per cent said they improved their vendors' well-being and almost 90 per cent said they increased their confidence. A quarter of papers were involved in creating policy change on housing and homelessness in their city or region.

As part of an international campaign on the UN's anti-poverty day, street papers on all continents will run an advertisement (see page 10). The poster slogan, "The Future is in Your Hands," urges read-

ers around the world to get involved in the street-paper movement, regularly buy a copy from their local vendors and help to tackle poverty in a manageable way.

The relationship between readers and their papers is unique. As the 2009 INSP study shows, 80 per cent of street papers engaged their readership through interaction with vendors and the content of the magazines. Articles on social injustice and tackling homelessness appeared in North American and European street papers, while taboo-breaking issues such as HIV/

AIDS and women's and gay rights helped to break down barriers in societies across Africa. Interviews with celebrities and other public figures boosted street-paper sales from Australia to Latin America.

Articles written by any of INSP's 110 member papers are made available through its independent news agency, the Street News Service. Street papers can republish all material free of charge. At the same time, readers around the world can access the best of international street paper journalism online via www.streetnewsservice.org.

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Say what?!

"There is no need for temples, no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart, is our temple. My philosophy is kindness."

— Tenzin Gyatso
the 14th Dala Lama

Shelter: Women and Children

Central Access Point	381-SAFE
Cincinnati Union Bethel	768-6907
300 Lytle Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Bethany House	557-2873
1841 Fairmount Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45214	
Grace Place Catholic Worker House	681-2365
6037 Cary Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45224	
Salvation Army	762-5660
131 E. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
YWCA Battered Women’s Shelter	872-9259

Shelter: Men

City Gospel Mission	241-5525
1419 Elm Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Justice Watch	241-0490
St. Fran/St. Joe Catholic Work. House	381-4941
1437 Walnut Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Mt. Airy Shelter	661-4620

Shelter: Both

Anthony House (Youth)	961-4080
2728 Glendora Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45209	
Caracole (HIV/AIDS)	761-1480
1821 Summit Road, Cinti, Ohio 45237	
Drop Inn Center	721-0643
217 W. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Interfaith Hospitality Network	471-1100
Lighthouse Youth Center (Youth)	221-3350
3330 Jefferson, Cinti, Ohio 45220	

Housing:

CMHA	721-4580
Excel Development	632-7149
OTR Community Housing	381-1171
114 W. 14th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Tender Mercies	721-8666
27 W. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Tom Geiger House	961-4555
Dana Transitional Bridge Services	751-0643
Volunteers of America	381-1954
Anna Louise Inn	421-5211

Food/Clothing

Lord’s Pantry	621-5300
OTR/Walnut Hills Kitchen & Pantry	961-1983
OTR: 1620 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Walnut Hills: 2631 Gilbert, Cinti, Ohio 45206	
Our Daily Bread	621-6364
1730 Race Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	

St. Francis Soup Kitchen	535-2719
Churches Active in Northside	591-2246
4230 Hamilton Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45223	
FreeStore/FoodBank	241-1064
112 E. Liberty Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Madisonville Ed & Assistance Center	271-5501
4600 Erie Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45227	
Serves area codes: 45226, 45227, 45208, 45209	
St. Vincent de Paul	562-8841
1125 Bank Street, Cinti, Ohio 45214	

Treatment: Men

Charlie’s 3/4 House	784-1853
2121 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Prospect House	921-1613
682 Hawthorne Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45205	
Starting Over	961-2256

Treatment: Women

First Step Home	961-4663
2203 Fulton, Cinti, Ohio 45206	

Treatment: Both

AA Hotline	351-0422
CCAT	381-6672
830 Ezzard Charles Dr. Cinti, Ohio 45214	
Joseph House (Veterans)	241-2965
1522 Republic Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Hamilton County ADAS Board	946-4888
Recovery Health Access Center	281-7422
Sober Living	681-0324
Talbert House	641-4300

Advocacy

Catholic Social Action	421-3131
Community Action Agency	569-1840
Contact Center	381-4242
1227 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Franciscan JPIC	721-4700
Gr. Cinti Coalition for the Homeless	421-7803
117 E. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Intercommunity Justice & Peace Cr.	579-8547
Legal Aid Society	241-9400
Ohio Justice & Policy Center	421-1108
Faces Without Places	363-3300
Stop AIDS	421-2437

Health

Center for Respite Care	621-1868
3550 Washington Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45229	

Crossroad Health Center	381-2247
5 E. Liberty St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Health Resource Center	357-4602
Homeless Mobile Health Van	352-2902
McMicken Dental Clinic	352-6363
40 E. McMicken Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Mental Health Access Point	558-8888
Mercy Franciscan at St. John	981-5800
1800 Logan St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
NAMI of Hamilton County	458-6670
PATH Outreach	977-4489

Other Resources

Center Independent Living Options	241-2600
Emmanuel Community Center	241-2563
1308 Race St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Peaslee Neighborhood Center	621-5514
214 E. 14th St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Franciscan Haircuts from the Heart	381-0111
1800 Logan St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Goodwill industries	771-4800
Healing Connections	751-0600
Mary Magdalen House	721-4811
1223 Main St. Cinti, Ohio 45202	
People Working Cooperatively	351-7921
The Caring Place	631-1114
United Way	211
Women Helping Women	977-5541
Off The Streets	421-5211

Hamilton/Middletown

St. Raephaels	863-3184
Salvation Army	863-1445
Serenity House Day Center	422-8555
Open Door Pantry	868-3276

Northern Kentucky

Brighton Center	859-491-8303
799 Ann St. Newport, KY	
ECHO/Hosea House	859-261-5857
Fairhaven Resuce Mission	859-491-1027
Homeward Bound Youth	859-581-1111
Mathews House	859-261-8009
Homeless & Housing Coalition	859-727-0926
Parish Kitchen	859-581-7745
Pike St. Clinic	859-291-9321
Transitions, Inc	859-491-4435
Welcome House of NKY	859-431-8717
205 West Pike Street, Covington, KY 41011	
Women’s Crisis Center	859-491-3335
VA Domiciliary	859-559-5011
VA Homeless	859-572-6226

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A Father's Fight, a Father's Art

Andy Fausz's
struggle for justice

Artists as Activists

By SAAD GHOSN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Art is a part of me,” says Albert Andrew Fausz Jr., also known as Andy. “It is like the heart that beats to keep me alive or the brain that activates my body. I cannot live without it; and when I make it, I am fulfilled.”

Art is also Fausz's conversation, his way to communicate with others, to convey what he thinks and believes, what preoccupies him.

Raised by principled, highly ethical and religious parents, since his childhood Fausz has been very sensitive to evil in the world and to the potential power in each individual to make a difference. He uses art as a guiding light to interpellate the viewer and trigger a better change.

“Our world has a lot of pain, destruction, problems,” he says. “We need to work out our differences, make earth a better place for all. Art is a potent tool in this respect. It can get the word out on various issues, create communication, lead to answers and favor transformation.”

Fausz, a visual artist born and raised in Northern Kentucky, attended Grandview Elementary School and Bellevue High School; he excelled in art all along. After high school he took a break for few years, exploring life, working different jobs, then entered Northern Kentucky University to study drawing, graduating with a bachelor's degree in fine art.

Even before art school Fausz drew all the time and exhibited his work; it consisted mostly of images out of his head, many related to rock and roll, popular at the time.

In college, his art became more personal both in imagery and content. It was often religious-based, questioning the reason for evil when we're all given the ability to be good spirits and well-doers; it was dark, reflecting the darkness in the world, but also always included elements of hope and beauty.

“I was being an activist, speaking to the world of what I felt was wrong,” he says, “but also pointing to the beauty available, to the fact that we can share and help each other.”

In college, Fausz started a relationship that brought him a daughter; unfortunately the relationship soon derailed and he had to fight in court for the right to see and spend time with his child. From that moment on all his work focused on the pain caused by a broken relationship, his longing and concerns for his daughter, his dealing with a judicial system often insensitive to the needs of fathers.

“Our family-court system is failing fathers,” he says. “I had to prove I was the father of my child, that I was drug- and alcohol-free, that what I was being accused of was wrong – and this despite an impeccable past. I had to hire lawyers and lost all my life savings. Most important, I wasted precious time I could have spent with my baby.”

Sweet V, a large mixed-media painting Fausz



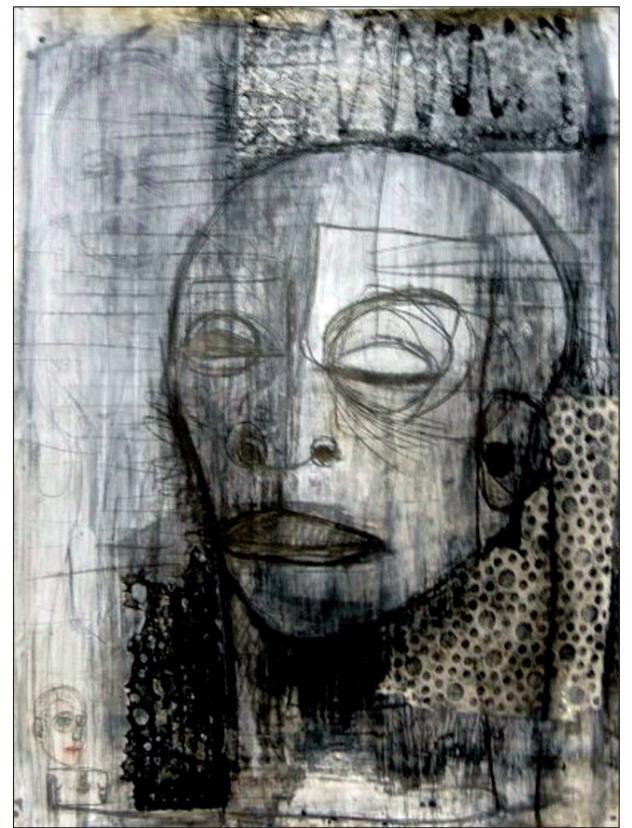
created around the time he split up with his child's mother, shows in its center a big, ominous head representing the mother, a dominating, powerful and controlling force in this instance. In its left lower corner is a small portrait of himself being pushed out of the page; in the background is a fading, ghost-like image of his daughter as he remembered her the night before, sleeping peacefully. He depicted the mother's face with eyes and mouth closed, as if unwilling to see or talk, thus unresponsive to his helpless and hurt feelings.

In *Judging Me*, a very large 52"x82" mixed-media painting on paper, Fausz shares his experience battling the court to gain the right to see his daughter. He drew the judges as skeleton referees surrounding him and accusing him. He is in the middle of the picture, his mouth wide open, screaming to defend himself. In the right half is the mother of his child, her head upside down, radiating thick lines of aggression; on one side of the painting are knives being thrown at him. To add hope to his situation, Fausz also incorporated a little house, flowers floating in the background, a Sacred Heart, allusion to himself, a good person wanting a good relationship.

In *Protecting our Eggs*, also a very large painting on paper, he states that even when one is the father, the rightful provider of the “egg,” the current family court system often denies him all rights, as if only mothers matter for a child's healthy development.

Fausz's recent paintings have all included self-portraits, portraits of his daughter, of her mother, images of good and evil, all interacting in different fields of color, line work and stylistic imagery, to reinforce emotions and feelings. They contain both beauty and pain and incorporate stories, poems, conversations. They can be hard to see, uplifting at times, but always trigger conversations with the viewers and an opportunity for Fausz to talk about his struggles and the family court system he has been experiencing, thus clarifying his message.

“Artists and art shows provide a vehicle for conversations, for people to meet and talk,” he says. “They get thoughts and exchanges started, vital to any change. My work right now focuses on my situation as an estranged father, also at shedding light on our family court system in order



Top: Andy Fausz stands in front of one of his paintings. Saad Ghosn.

Above: *Sweet V*, mixed-media painting and photo by Andy Fausz.

to make it more humane. It will always deal with the pain I see and feel around me, thriving for a better world.”

Now that he is able to spend more time with his daughter, Fausz hopes that the beauty of their relationship will start to transpire into his art. He would like to continue addressing religion and its good values, the power of love, ongoing social issues such as fighting greed, food and famine, the futility of wars.

“For me, the best aspect of art is sharing it and sharing myself and my feelings through it,” Fausz says. “My images come naturally and subconsciously; they reflect what I had lived, thought, experienced. My art breathes on its own; it urges me to partake in the goodness of life.”

Artists as Activists is a regular column highlighting Greater Cincinnati artists who use art as a vehicle for change. Saad Ghosn is the founder of SOS Art. Ghosn can be contacted at saad.ghosn@uc.edu.



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